

THE SIKORSKY'S FALLEN HEROES
COMMITTEE

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Sikorsky Fallen Heroes Committee who supports the families of Connecticut soldiers killed in the line of duty. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to see the work of this committee first hand. They have given so much to the families of our fallen service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

When families learn of their service member's death, they enter a very painful and sad period of their lives. The Sikorsky Fallen Heroes Committee has supported these families, acting as a pillar of strength for them when they needed support the most. Their dedication to these wives, mothers, fathers, daughters and sons has been truly remarkable and has been a testament to their patriotism and love of humanity.

In addition to supporting the family of fallen service members, the Sikorsky Fallen Heroes Committee has reached out to members of the community through events they hold. In June of this year, the Committee held their fourth annual softball tribute game to honor Jordan Pierson, Philip Alexander Johnson and Nicholas Madaras, three courageous young men who gave their lives in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Next June, they plan to honor six more fallen soldiers. Their commitment and dedication to the fallen is truly remarkable and is an inspiration to all of us.

The Sikorsky Fallen Heroes Committee are heroes in their own right. They are courageous people reaching out to those in need. We are honored and privileged to have people like them in the community. The unwavering dedication and support they show the families of fallen service members will always be remembered for making a difference in so many lives.

It is my hope we can all learn from the example of the Sikorsky Fallen Heroes Committee to support the families of the fallen who have also sacrificed in honor of our nation's freedom.

HONORING VIC CIBELLI

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Victor H. Cibelli, who passed away on Monday, November 12. I consider myself privileged to call him a friend, and I extend my condolences to his family on their loss.

Vic was a leader. A Navy veteran of the Korean war, he spent decades fighting for veterans as an officer in the VFW, the Jewish War Veterans, and the Combined Veterans Association of Illinois. I was fortunate to be able to rely on Vic for advice on a range of veterans' issues, and he always stood ready to help me organize an event to honor veterans or to promote their causes.

From teaching school children about citizenship and history, to organizing a service to honor the World War II warship *Dorchester's* four chaplains who gave their lives so others could survive, or running a Patriot's Pen student writing competition, no task was too big or small for Vic to help enrich his community.

People cherished the opportunity to work with Vic, and took pleasure in coming together for a good cause at his invitation. While Vic took the work of improving the lives of veterans and their families seriously, his generosity of spirit and infectious humor made the work enjoyable for him and everyone around him.

Madam Speaker, the Veterans community and the Fifth District of Illinois have lost a great advocate and a true friend. My deepest sympathies go to Vic's widow Mary, to his children and grandchildren. We will all miss him.

HONORING VICE ADMIRAL JOHN
SCOTT REDD, U.S. NAVY (RET.)
FOR FORTY YEARS OF PUBLIC
SERVICE

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize a dedicated public servant who devoted nearly four decades to protecting this great Nation. Vice Admiral John Scott Redd, U.S. Navy (Ret.), retired last week after serving as the first Director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC).

Admiral Redd's accomplishments are many, having served thirty-six years in the United States Navy, which culminated in his assignment as the Director of Strategic Plans and Policy on the Joint Staff. Retiring from the Navy in 1998, Admiral Redd was again called to serve in 2004, this time as the Deputy Administrator and Chief Operating Officer of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad, Iraq. He went on to serve as the Executive Director of the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction where he influenced Community-wide intelligence reforms and made lasting improvements to America's national security.

Under his superior leadership, the National Counterterrorism Center developed into the Nation's premier intelligence and law enforcement fusion center, bridging all elements of the Intelligence Community to develop a national common intelligence picture. Admiral Redd tore down walls between Intelligence Community members and replaced a "need to know" philosophy with a "responsibility to share" environment.

Some of the Intelligence Community's successes are known such as the thwarted terrorist attacks against the Sears Tower, a Chicago-area shopping mall, military forces at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and multiple targets in New York, D.C. and elsewhere. Others remain classified. However, in each instance, the National Counterterrorism Center played a key information sharing role which led to the successful prevention of these attacks against our citizens.

Admiral Redd is to be commended for his contributions to the Nation, but such a perse-

vering service is not without a cost. For that I offer my personal thanks to his wife of over 37 years, Donna Redd, and their children Ann, Scott, and Adam, without whose support such service would not have been possible.

ANNIVERSARY OF MARSHALL
UNIVERSITY PLANE CRASH

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, for each of us, there are a handful of moments in life that stay with us forever, moments that years later we can still recall with clarity and conviction. Moments that shook our core and move our hearts still. For the people of Huntington, West Virginia, a rainy evening in 1970 is one of those moments.

On November 14th, 1970 the Marshall University football team, coaches and supporters were returning home from their game against East Carolina University when their plane crashed into a hill just short of the Tri-State Airport. All 75 people on board were killed. In an instant the lives of everyone at Marshall and within the community of Huntington were changed.

Every November 14th, the Marshall University Student Government Association hosts a memorial ceremony to honor the victims of the crash by laying a wreath at the base of the Memorial Fountain in the center of Marshall's campus. This year marks the 37th anniversary of the plane crash. This annual ceremony draws together the families of those who died that night, as well as members of the community, the school and the football team, who attend the memorial service every year. At the end of each ceremony, the fountain is turned off until spring.

The fountain was dedicated in 1972 in front of the Memorial Student Center. The 75 points of the sculpture represent each of the 75 lives lost that rainy night. Sculptor Harry Bertoia hoped that the fountain would "commemorate the living—rather than death—on the waters of life, rising, receding, surging so as to express upward growth, immortality and eternity."

A year ago this December, the movie "We Are Marshall" premiered across the Nation, telling the story of how Marshall University and this community rose from the ashes of tragedy. It told how the Young Thundering Herd found a way to keep the football program together in the fall of 1971 and gave the community of Huntington hope in one of its darkest hours. The team that suited up that year in green and white may not have had a winning season, but by taking the field every Saturday, the players and coaches taught us that it isn't just about winning, that sometimes it's about simply showing up and playing the game.

The foundation laid by the Young Herd in 1971 paved the way for Marshall to become a football powerhouse during the 1990's and beyond. The legacy of the 1970 team lost in the crash and the team that took the field in 1971 is still with us today and is once again being honored with the ceremonial turning off of the Memorial Fountain.

The bronze plaque on the fountain bears this simple, eloquent inscription: